country. I am giving the break-up and showing how it has been reduced and is being gradually reduced.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, please. Another question is very important. He is saying, " Are you interested in reducing the farming of opium and production?"

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Actually, we have done.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already done it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think this is not a state matter. Is the Ministry of Finance aware of the fact that the opium is smuggled in U.P. through Kathmandu border and the border is unguarded? This is not the question of opium in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: This question pertains to Gazipur and Varanasi only.

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Is the Ministry of Finance taking some steps to put a check on all types of smuggling activities in the country in consultation with the Ministry of Home and the Ministry of Defence?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you doing anything in a coordinated manner? I think, the answer is 'yes'.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: So far as production part is concerned, three production centres are there, It is minimum in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan and maximum in Madhya Pradesh. In all the three States, production has come down.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that a provision has been made for 10 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2 lakh under this Act in this regard? Even then the convicts are easily acquitted. In the circumstances are you going to take up some stern steps to safeguard the interests of poor farmers, who are generally the victims of the affairs? All the influential persons involved in smuggling easily escape from the dragged to law. Will you make certain arrangements to bring the actual smugglers to book? At present, there are number of shortcomings in the law. Are you going to make certain amendments in the law to rectify these shortcomings.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to make the punishment stringent?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: The punishment is already stringent. The question is where should it be applicable. Wherever it is applicable, we see to it that we do not spare the guilty persons.

New rules for balance sheets for public sector Banks

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*633. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new rules and formats for balance sheets for public sector banks have come into effect from the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector banks have been asked to disclose the amount of bad and doubtful debts in their balance sheets; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). A notification has been issued by Government on 18th January, 1991 giving notice of its intention to modify the formats of Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account of commercial banks after expiry of three months from the date of publication. The proposed formats would have, inter-alia, the following features:

i) They will give a more comprehensive picture of both income and expenditure;

ii) They will ensure uniformity in the classification of various items of assets and liabilities as well as income and expenditure, and

iii) They will include statements on accounting policies to facilitate easy understanding.

In response to the notification certain suggestions have been received from interested quarters including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The new formats are proposed to be made effective from the current accounting year ending 31st March, 1992.

(c) and (d). In accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, the banks are given statutory protection from disclosing the provisions made for bad and doubtful debts as well as loan losses. However the new formats will show the provisions for bad debts, depreciation and taxes in a consolidated form on the expenditure side of the Profit & Loss Account.

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister the reasons for not asking the banks to show their actual amounts of bad debts in their balance sheets.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Sir, in this connection, A Ghose Committee was set up to evolve new format and it was to be made effective within three months latest by 17-4-91. 56 suggestions from interested quarters including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India have been received and RBI is examining all the suggestions. But it is definite that by the year end new formats will be made effective.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Sir, I would not like to put the second supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, balance sheets of Nationalised banks are being audited by Chartered Accountants. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the balance sheets are not being audited by C.A.G. and now the formats of balance sheets are going to be modified. So, Will the Government in near future get the balance sheets audited by CAG.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government does not have any reservations about getting the balance sheets audited by someone else; the Government has got its own limitations. In view of these limitations it has been proposed... (*Interruptions*)... a committee has been set up for this purpose. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: For the present question 40-45 minutes were given in the question. Which was asked earlier.

[*English*]

So, we will go to the next question.